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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/888,046	06/22/2001	Nadine Smolarski-Koff	5102.452US01	6967
23552	7590	03/27/2006	EXAMINER	
MERCHANT & GOULD PC P.O. BOX 2903 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903			BARQADLE, YASIN M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2153	

DATE MAILED: 03/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/888,046	Applicant(s) SMOLARSKI-KOFF ET AL.	
	Examiner Yasin M. Barqadle	Art Unit 2153	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12/16/2006.
 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 and 38-51 is/are rejected.
 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on December 16, 2005 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

2. The amendment filed on December 16, 2005 has been fully considered but are not persuasive.

Response to Arguments

Applicant argues "Liu and Aldridge do not determine exchange rights that establish actions available to the recipient with respect to subsequent handling of the image file by the recipient." Pages 12-14. Examiner notes that Liu teaches, "When the recipient receives the message, viewer 130 recognizes the flag and alerts the recipient indicating that the message is a Return-Receipt-Requested Mail. The recipient is given the choice of whether to send the return receipt. If the recipient agrees to send the return receipt, the time stamp certificate in the received mail will be signed for the recipient and sent to key server 108. This produces a signed time

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stamp certificate, denoted Signed(RecipientKey, TSC). Since the recipient has already entered the signature phrase when decrypting the message, there is no need to enter the signature phrase again to sign the receipt.” (Col. 31, line 9-21). Furthermore, Liu teaches “Certified Mail can be sent by a sender to a recipient. The process for certified mail is the same as the Receipt-Requested-Mail process described above except that the recipient is not allowed to read the message unless they agree to send a certified receipt.” (Col. 31, lines 45-51). Therefore, Liu clearly shows an action available to the recipient with respect to subsequent handling of the image file by the recipient.

Additionally, Bergmans discloses handling security codes for digital image files. Bergmans shows an image file bundled with exchange rights: *“after selection of at least one file by the operator, checking whether the selected file is provided with a security code; if a selected file is provided with a security code, asking the operator to input an access code corresponding to the security code; and if the operator inputs the correct access code, releasing the selected file for the further handling”* (Bergmans, col. 1, lines 60-67).

Claims 1-36 and 51 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it

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pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1,16, 27,36,44 and 50 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. “exchange rights establishing at least one action available to said with respect to subsequent handling of said at least one image file.” The specification describes handling image file but not as the subsequent handling of the image file claimed by the applicant. Examiner could not find the word subsequent or its equivalence in the specification. Examiner interprets subsequent handling as simply handling the image file such viewing and reading an image file by authorized recipients.

Claims 16, 27,and 50 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. “restricting the recipient’s subsequent handling of at least one image file in accordance with an exchange rights.” Examiner could not find the word subsequent or its equivalence in the specification. It is not clear how the recipient’s subsequent handling of the image file is restricted. Examiner interprets subsequent handling as simply handling the image file such viewing and reading an image file by authorized recipients.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liu et al. (U.S. Patent Number, hereinafter "Liu") in view of Bergmans (U.S. Patent Number, hereinafter "Bergmans").

In referring to claim 1, Liu shows substantial features of the claimed invention including:

- Composing a data message:

"In one aspect, the invention provides a method for transferring a message securely from a sender to a recipient over a network and includes at each transfer: creating a message" (Liu, col. 1, lines 54-56)

- Attachments can be sent with said message:

"The body of the E-mail message is produced and any attachments are identified (254). In one implementation, the message, including any attachments, optionally can be compressed." (Liu, col. 16, lines 13-16)

- Determining exchange rights for said recipient, said exchange rights establishing at least one action available to said recipient with respect to handling of the document:

Composing a message for a recipient inherently implies determining that said recipient should have access to said message

- Bundling exchange rights to form said data message.

"signing the message using the private key of the sender; encrypting the signed message using a public key encryption algorithm and the public key of the recipient producing an encrypted signed message; generating an E-mail message addressed to the recipient;

attaching the encrypted signed message as an attachment to the E-mail message; and, transmitting the E-mail message to the recipient.” (Liu, col. 1, lines 58-65)

However, Liu does not show the optional attachment is an image. Nonetheless this feature is well known in the art and would have been an obvious use of the system disclosed by Liu as evidenced by Bergmans.

In analogous art, Bergmans discloses handling security codes for digital image files. Bergmans shows an image file bundled with exchange rights: *“after selection of at least one file by the operator, checking whether the selected file is provided with a security code; if a selected file is provided with a security code, asking the operator to input an access code corresponding to the security code; and if the operator inputs the correct access code, releasing the selected file for the further handling”* (Bergmans, col. 1, lines 60-67)

Given these teachings, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of implementing the system of Liu so as to send an image, such as taught by Bergmans, in order to provide a secure means of transmitting confidential image data.

In referring to claim 2, Liu in view of Bergmans shows substantial features of the claimed invention including the system of claim 1. A person of ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of including a related text message along with the image file, so as to identify the purpose of the image to the recipient.

In referring to claim 8, Liu in view of Bergmans shows,

- The step of encrypting clear text in a selected related text file prior to said bundling.
“encrypting the signed message using a public key encryption algorithm and the public key of the recipient producing an encrypted signed message” (Liu, col. 1, lines 59-62)

In referring to claim 9, Liu in view of Bergmans shows,

- The step of encoding selected audio and/or text files prior to said bundling.
“The step of generating an E-mail message can include creating a MIME E-mail message addressed to the recipient. The step of attaching the signed document can

include attaching the signed document to the MIME mail message as a MIME attachment. The step of transmitting can include sending the MIME mail message to the recipient.” (Liu, col. 3, lines 6-11)

In referring to claim 10, Liu in view of Bergmans shows,

- Said encoding includes at least one of compressing and scrambling said audio and/or text files:

Liu, col. 1, lines 59-62 (see full quote above), encrypting is a method of scrambling

In referring to claim 11, Liu in view of Bergmans shows,

- The step of encrypting said data message after said bundling:

Liu, col. 1, lines 59-62 (see full quote above)

In referring to claim 12, Liu in view of Bergmans shows,

- The step of MIME encoding said encrypted data message:

Liu, col. 3, lines 6-11 (see full quote above)

In referring to claim 13, Liu in view of Bergmans shows,

- Said at least one image file is compressed:

Liu, col. 16, lines 13-16 (see full quote above)

In referring to claim 16, Liu shows substantial features of the claimed invention including:

- Composing a data message:

Liu, col. 1, lines 54-56 (see full quote above)

- Attachments can be sent with said message:

Liu, col. 16, lines 13-16 (see full quote above)

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- Determining exchange rights for said recipient, said exchange rights establishing at least one action available to said recipient with respect to handling of the document:
Composing a message for a recipient inherently implies determining that said recipient should have access to said message
- Bundling exchange rights to form said data message and sending said message.

Liu, col. 1, lines 58-65 (see full quote above)

However, Liu does not show the optional attachment is an image. Nonetheless this feature is well known in the art and would have been an obvious use of the system disclosed by Liu as evidenced by Bergmans.

In analogous art, Bergmans discloses handling security codes for digital image files. Bergmans shows an image file bundled with exchange rights: *Bergmans, col. 1, lines 60-67* (see full quote above)

Given these teachings, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of implementing the system of Liu so as to send an image, such as taught by Bergmans, in order to provide a secure means of transmitting confidential image data.

In referring to claim 17, although Liu in view of Bergmans shows substantial features of the claimed invention, Liu in view of Bergmans does not show determining if the user is allowed to save or forward the message. Nonetheless this feature is well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification to the system disclosed by Liu in view of Bergmans.

The system of Liu in view of Bergmans is designed to prevent data from being sent over a network in an insecure matter. A person of ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying the system of Liu in view of Bergmans so as to determine if the user is allowed to save or forward the message, in order to prevent confidential/copyrighted information from being sent to unintended recipients, and to prevent said information from being sent in an insecure manner.

In referring to claim 18, Liu in view of Bergmans shows,

- Setting a flag following transmission of said data message to said recipient computer system and generating a prompt if a receipt acknowledgement is not received from said recipient computer system within a threshold period of time following said transmission:
"The method can include attaching a return receipt request to the E-mail message and acknowledging the return of a receipt including displaying the receipt to the sender. The opening of the E-mail message by the recipient can be conditioned upon the return of the return receipt." (Liu, col. 3, lines 1-5)

In referring to claim 19, Liu in view of Bergmans shows substantial features of the claimed invention including the system of claim 1. A person of ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of including a related text message along with the image file, so as to identify the purpose of the image to the recipient.

In referring to claim 20, Liu in view of Bergmans shows,

- During said creating said at least one image file, said at least one related image annotation, audio and/or text file and said exchange rights are bundled to form said data message:

Liu, col. 16, lines 13-16 (see full quote above), all the files for one message are bundled

In referring to claim 21, Liu in view of Bergmans shows,

- The step of encrypting clear text in each text file in said data message prior to said bundling.

Liu, col. 1, lines 59-62 (see full quote above), any clear text in the message would be encrypted

In referring to claim 22, Liu in view of Bergmans shows,

- The step of encoding each audio and/or text file in said data message prior to said bundling.

Liu, col. 3, lines 6-11 (see full quote above)

In referring to claim 23, Liu in view of Bergmans shows,

- Said encoding includes at least one of compressing and scrambling each said audio and/or text file.

Liu, col. 1, lines 59-62 (see full quote above), encrypting is a method of scrambling

In referring to claim 24, Liu in view of Bergmans shows,

- The step of encrypting said data message prior to said transmitting:

Liu, col. 1, lines 59-62 (see full quote above)

In referring to claim 25, Liu in view of Bergmans shows,

- The step of MIME encoding said encrypted data message prior to said transmitting:

Liu, col. 3, lines 6-11 (see full quote above)

In referring to claim 26, Liu in view of Bergmans shows,

- During said deconstructing, said data message is MIME decoded, decrypted and de-bundled:

“substantially contemporaneous with sending the message, the method can include prompting the sender for a signature phrase, decrypting the private key of the sender using the signature phrase, applying a hash function to a sender's public key to produce a hash and verifying a status of the sender's public key including submitting the hash to the external key server to enable a look-up of a status of a public key of the sender.” (Liu, col. 2, lines 14-21), a system that encodes, encrypts and bundles a message at a sender inherently implies decoding, decrypting and de-bundling at the recipient

In referring to claim 27 and 43-51, Liu shows substantial features of the claimed invention

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including:

- Composing a data message:
Liu, col. 1, lines 54-56 (see full quote above)
- Attachments can be sent with said message:
Liu, col. 16, lines 13-16 (see full quote above)
- Determining exchange rights for said recipient, said exchange rights establishing at least one action available to said recipient with respect to handling of the document:
Composing a message for a recipient inherently implies determining that said recipient should have access to said message
- Bundling exchange rights to form said data message and sending said message.
Liu, col. 1, lines 58-65 (see full quote above)

However, Liu does not show the optional attachment is an image. Nonetheless this feature is well known in the art and would have been an obvious use of the system disclosed by Liu as evidenced by Bergmans.

In analogous art, Bergmans discloses handling security codes for digital image files. Bergmans shows an image file bundled with exchange rights: *Bergmans, col. 1, lines 60-67* (see full quote above)

Given these teachings, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of implementing the system of Liu so as to send an image, such as taught by Bergmans, in order to provide a secure means of transmitting confidential image data.

Although Liu in view of Bergmans shows substantial features of the claimed invention, Liu in view of Bergmans does not show determining if the user is allowed to save or forward the message. Nonetheless this feature is well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification to the system disclosed by Liu in view of Bergmans.

The system of Liu in view of Bergmans is designed to prevent data from being sent over a network in an insecure matter. A person of ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying the system of Liu in view of Bergmans so as to determine if the user is allowed to save or forward the message, in order to prevent

confidential/copyrighted information from being sent to unintended recipients, and to prevent said information from being sent in an insecure manner.

In referring to claim 28, Liu in view of Bergmans shows,

- The step of setting a flag at said sender computer system following transmission of said data message to said recipient computer system and generating a prompt if a receipt acknowledgement is not received from said recipient computer system within a threshold period of time following said transmission:

Liu, col. 3, lines 1-5 (see full quote above)

In referring to claim 29, Liu in view of Bergmans shows substantial features of the claimed invention including the system of claim 1. A person of ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of including a related text message along with the image file, so as to identify the purpose of the image to the recipient.

In referring to claim 30, Liu in view of Bergmans shows,

- The step of at the recipient computer system, transmitting a reply data message to the sender computer system:

Liu, col. 3, lines 1-5 (see full quote above)

In referring to claim 31, Liu in view of Bergmans shows,

- Said reply data message includes at least one audio and/or text file and said exchange rights:

Exchange rights are included in transmissions between the sender and receiver in both directions

In referring to claim 32, Liu in view of Bergmans shows,

- The step of setting a flag at said recipient computer system following transmission of said data message to said sender computer system and generating a prompt if a receipt acknowledgement is not received from said sender computer system within a threshold period of time following said transmission:

“A different way of sending a return receipt is for the recipient to retrieve a second time stamp certificate from the server (which certifies the time the message was received) and then send both the TSC of sending time and TSC of receiving time to the sender, with both TSCs being signed and encrypted. More specifically, the return receipt is: $PKE(\text{SenderPublicKey}, \text{Signed}(\text{RecipientKey}, \text{TSC}(\text{send time}) + \text{TSC}(\text{receive time}) + \text{OtherInfo}))$, where OtherInfo may contain the public subject or and other purposes.” (Liu, col. 31, lines 35-43)

In referring to claim 33, Liu in view of Bergmans shows,

- The step of encrypting clear text in each text file in said data message and said reply data message prior to said transmitting.

Liu, col. 1, lines 59-62 (see full quote above)

In referring to claim 34, Liu in view of Bergmans shows,

- The step of encoding each audio and/or text file in said data message and said reply data message prior to said transmitting.

Liu, col. 3, lines 6-11 (see full quote above)

In referring to claim 35, Liu in view of Bergmans shows,

- The step of encrypting said data message and said reply data message prior to said transmitting:

Liu, col. 1, lines 59-62 (see full quote above)

In referring to claim 36, Liu shows substantial features of the claimed invention including:

- A data message:

Liu, col. 1, lines 54-56 (see full quote above)

- Attachments can attached to said message:

Liu, col. 16, lines 13-16 (see full quote above)

- Determining exchange rights for said recipient, said exchange rights establishing at least one action available to said recipient with respect to handling of the document:

A message for a recipient inherently implies determining that said recipient should have access to said message

- Bundling exchange rights to form said data message and sending said message.

Liu, col. 1, lines 58-65 (see full quote above)

However, Liu does not show the attachment is an image. Nonetheless this feature is well known in the art and would have been an obvious use of the system disclosed by Liu as evidenced by Bergmans.

In analogous art, Bergmans discloses handling security codes for digital image files. Bergmans shows an image file bundled with exchange rights: *Bergmans, col. 1, lines 60-67* (see full quote above)

Given these teachings, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of implementing the system of Liu so as to send an image, such as taught by Bergmans, in order to provide a secure means of transmitting confidential image data.

In referring to claim 38, although Liu in view of Bergmans shows substantial features of the claimed invention, Liu in view of Bergmans does not show determining if the user is allowed to save or forward the message. Nonetheless this feature is well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification to the system disclosed by Liu in view of Bergmans.

The system of Liu in view of Bergmans is designed to prevent data from being sent over a network in an insecure matter. A person of ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying the system of Liu in view of Bergmans so as to determine if the user is allowed to save or forward the message, in order to prevent confidential/copyrighted information from being sent to unintended recipients, and to prevent said information from being sent in an insecure manner.

In referring to claim 39, Liu in view of Bergmans shows,

- Said at least one image file is compressed:

Liu, col. 16, lines 13-16 (see full quote above)

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liu in view of Bergmans and in further view of Campbell et al. (U.S. Patent Number, hereinafter "Campbell"). Although Liu in view of Bergmans shows substantial features of the claimed invention, Liu in view of Bergmans is silent as to what is being sent to the recipient. Liu in view of Bergmans does not show the image file and related at least one image annotation are included in an exam record stored in a database. Nonetheless this feature is well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification to the system disclosed by Liu in view of Bergmans as evidenced by Campbell.

In analogous art, Campbell discloses interactive method and system for managing physical exams, diagnosis and treatment protocols in a health care practice. Campbell shows:

- An exam record database:

"In one particular client server implementation, the server executes database management software and maintains a series of relational databases (tables). The client and server software is developed using the FoxPro® database development tools. The client-server software is written in FoxPro® database for Windows® NT operating system, and uses the native FoxPro® database file structures." (Campbell, col. 3, lines 48-54)

- A graphical user interface for the exam records:

Campbell, Figs. 3-14 show a graphical user interface for viewing the exam record

Given these teachings, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying the system of Liu in view of Bergmans so as to bundle exam record files to the message, such as taught by Campbell, in order to send the confidential exam records in a secure manner.

Claims 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liu in view of Bergmans and in further view of Inoue et al. (*A digital watermark technique based on the wavelet transform and its robustness on image compression and transformation*, SCIS, 1998, hereinafter "Inoue"). Liu in view of Bergmans shows substantial features of the claimed invention, including the system of claim 13 (see 103 rejection above). However, Liu in view of Bergmans is silent as to the method of compression. Liu in view of Bergmans does not explicitly show using a wavelet algorithm. Nonetheless this feature is well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification to the system disclosed by Liu in view of Bergmans as evidenced by Inoue.

In analogous art, Inoue discloses a digital watermark technique based on the wavelet transform and its robustness on image compression and transformation. Inoue shows using the wavelet transformation for compression and watermarking (Inoue, pg. 2, col. 2, paragraph 2)

Given these teachings, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying the system of Liu in view of Bergmans so as to compress and watermark the image using a wavelet algorithm, such as taught by Campbell, in order to be able to extract the watermark if the image is degraded through a common signal and geometric processing procedures.

Claims 40 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liu in view of Bergmans and in further view of Inoue et al. (*A digital watermark technique based on the wavelet transform and its robustness on image compression and transformation*, SCIS, 1998, hereinafter "Inoue"). Liu in view of Bergmans shows substantial features of the claimed invention, including the system of claim 39 (see 103 rejection above). However, Liu in view of Bergmans is silent as to the method of compression. Liu in view of Bergmans does not explicitly show using a wavelet algorithm. Nonetheless this feature is well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification to the system disclosed by Liu in view of Bergmans as evidenced by Inoue.

In analogous art, Inoue discloses a digital watermark technique based on the wavelet transform and its robustness on image compression and transformation. Inoue shows using the wavelet transformation for compression and watermarking (Inoue, pg. 2, col. 2, paragraph 2)

Given these teachings, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying the system of Liu in view of Bergmans so as to compress and watermark the image using a wavelet algorithm, such as taught by Campbell, in order to be able to extract the watermark if the image is degraded through a common signal and geometric processing procedures.

Conclusion

The prior made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yasin Barqadle whose telephone number is 571-272-3947. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Burgess can be reached on 571-272-3949. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and 703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either private PAIR or public PAIR system. Status information for

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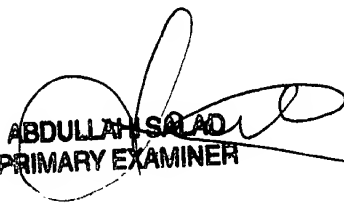
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unpublished applications is available through private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

YB

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ABDULLAH SALAD
PRIMARY EXAMINER